

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 SS-15 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 CPR-02

RSR-01 /099 W

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R 101329Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8258
INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MASERU
AMEMBASSY MBABANE

UNCLAS PRETORIA 2337

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, SF, US

SUBJECT: FURTHER PRESS REACTION TO FOURTH OF JULY

RECEPTION

REF: PRETORIA 2315 (NOTAL)

1. ENGLISH AND AFRIKAANS PRESS REACTION TO SAG OFFICIALS' ATTENDANCE AT AMBASSADOR'S MULTIRACIAL FOURTH OF JULY RECEPTION -- FIRST SUCH ATTENDANCE SINCE LATE PRIME MINISTER VERWOERD'S TIME -- HAS THUS FAR BEEN VERY FAVORABLE.

2. JULY 6 JOHANNESBURG 'STAR,' FOR EXAMPLE, REFERRED TO SAG ATTENDANCE AS "YET ANOTHER TRIUMPH OF COMMON SENSE OVER DOCTRINAIRE NONSENSE," EVEN THOUGH NEWSPAPER SAID IT WAS UNCLEAR WHETHER BAN HAD BEEN "FORMALLY" LIFTED. RELATIVELY LIBERAL PRETORIA AFRIKAANS NEWS-

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PAPER,' OGGENDBLAD', DESCRIBED SAG ATTENDANCE AS INDI-

CATION OF GRADUAL BUT FAR-REACHING CHANGES IN ATTITUDES TO COLOR AND HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS TAKING PLACE IN SOUTH AFRICA AND COMMENTED THAT IT WAS A GOOD THING THE "UNCOMFORTABLE" AND "UNREASONABLE" BAN HAD BEEN DROPPED. JULY 8 'RAPPORT', SIMILARLY LIBERAL WEEKEND AFRIKAANS NEWSPAPER, EDITORIALIZED THAT PEOPLE SHOULD TAKE OMEN FROM OFFICIAL ATTENDANCE AT AMBASSADOR'S MULTIRACIAL RECEPTION AND THINK TWICE IN FUTURE BEFORE THEY REJECT SMALL CHANGES IN CUSTOMARY WAY OF DOING THINGS WHICH DO NOT THREATEN SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT. JULY 10 'TRANSVALER', SPOKESMAN FOR TRANSVAAL NATIONAL PARTY, REACTED TESTILY AGAINST THOSE WHO WOULD DIMINISH ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF DR. VERWOERD AND POINTED OUT THAT VERWOERD HIMSELF HAD DINED WITH LESOTHO PRIME MINISTER, CHIEF JONATHAN, THE WEEKEND BEFORE HIS DEATH. SAG ATTENDANCE AT FOURTH OF JULY AND QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY FUNCTIONS WAS LOGICAL DEVELOPMENT OF VERWOERD'S AND GOVERNMENT'S POLICY AND, ACCORDING TO 'TRANSVALER', MIGHT WELL HAVE TAKEN PLACE SOONER HAD THERE BEEN NO FOREIGN INTERFERENCE DESIGNED TO UNDERMINE SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT.

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